

## REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 11 to reflect the invention as disclosed. Claims 1-7 and 11-13 have been also amended to correct minor matters of English usage.

The specification has been objected to because the reference numeral "35" appearing at page 11, line 4, should have been "25." This objection is overcome because the reference numeral has been corrected accordingly.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11 and 12 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,181,435 (Onodera). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a controller for controlling the image data processor, the storage medium and the compressor so that after the compressed image data is stored in the storage medium the processing applied by the image data processor is changed when it is determined that the storage medium cannot store further image data. Because of this feature of the claimed controller, when a document having a large number of image data, i.e., pages of the document, is processed for electrical sorting or booklet creation of the document, the processing job does not have to be cancelled due to memory shortage because the processing applied to the image data is changed when it is determined that the storage medium cannot store further image data, as claimed. See, for example, page 18, lines 7-19, of the specification.

The Examiner contends that Onodera's CPU shown in FIG. 2 teaches the claimed controller. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The claimed controller compresses image data using the compressor, stores the compressed data in the storage medium, and then determines whether room is still available in the storage medium for further image data of the document. If the room is not available, the controller changes the processing by the image data processor. On

the other hand, Onodera is concerned only with effective manipulation of image data for one page. Onodera's CPU determines first whether the memory capacity is enough for mapping the image data of the one page from one image format to another and for its storage. Then, it stores the image data of the one page for printing when the memory capacity is enough and further compresses the image data, if the memory capacity is not enough, until it can store the image for printing. After printing this one page, the printing process shown in FIG. 3 starts anew for a next page. See, column 5, line 11 - column 7, line 40, of Onodera. Onodera's CPU determines whether the memory capacity is enough for printing of one page image data, and never determines whether the memory capacity is enough for further image data, i.e., the next page, after the current image data is stored in the memory, as claimed.

Onodera does not teach or suggest the controller of claim 1. Claim 11 recites the function of the controller of claim 1 in a method claim format. Thus, the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11 and 12 under 35 USC 102(e) on Onodera should be withdrawn.

The remaining rejections rely on Onodera and thus should be withdrawn as well since Onodera does not provide the teachings for which it is cited. Applicant respectfully requests that claims 8-10 be allowed as rejoinder because claims 8-10 are dependent from claim 1 that is allowable.

In light of the above, a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to

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Respectfully submitted,

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